

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 280547 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2897

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4557

DEPARTMENT POUCH TO USLO PEKING

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, IR, XF

SUBJECT: CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG- FEI' S VISIT
TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 4246

1. TEHRAN CONTINUES TO BUZZ WITH SPECULATION OVER CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER CHI' S COMMENTS DURING VISIT TO IRAN. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS CHI' S WHOLEHEARTED ENDORSEMENT OF IRAN' S POLICY TOWARDS GULF AND OF IRAN' S MILITARY BUILD- UP. CHI' S PUBLIC COMMENTS HAVE ALSO LED TO MORE PRIVATE SPECULATION THAT CHINESE MAY IN FACT BE WITHDRAWING THEIR SUPPORT OF DHOFAR INSURGENCY AGAINST OMAN.

2. BRITISH CHARGE ELLINGWORTH TELLS US THAT BRITISH HAVE RELIABLE REPORTS THAT CHINESE UDE IN FACT DISCONTINUING THEIR ASSISTANCE TO PDRY FOR USE IN DHOFAR (EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE CONTINUING THEIR ASSISTANCE TO ROAD
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BUILDING IN PDRY ITSELF). IF TRUE, GOI WILL NATURALLY WELCOME REMOVAL OF ONE OF FEW IRRITANTS IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA.

AS SEEN BY IRAN THIS PUTS CHINA ON SIDE OF ANGELS IN IRAN' S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER WHAT IT CAN NOW SEE AS LARGELY SOVIET INSPIRED SUBVERSION IN GULF AREA.

3. ASSUMING BRITISH REPORTS TO BE CORRECT, CHINESE WITHDRAWAL FROM DHOFAR RAISES SEVERAL INTRIGUING QUESTIONS. HAVE CHINESE FORESAKEN LIBERATION STRUGGLES, WHICH IS PRESUMABLY WHAT THEY DESCRIBE DHOFAR INSURGENCY? IN APPARENT CHINESE DRIVE FOR RESPECTABILITY IN INTERNATIONAL WORLD, ARE THEY WILLING TO TURN THEIR BACK ON LIBERATION STRUGGLES OR ARE THERE OTHER REASONS NOT APPARENT TO US WHY CHINESE ARE PULLING OUT OF DHOFAR? FURTHER, IF MOST OF CHINESE POLICIES IN THIS PART OF ASIA ARE A FUNCTION OF CONFLICT WITH USSR, AS WE UNDERSTOOD CONSUL GENERAL OSBORN TO SAY AT RECENT CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN, WHAT IS RATIONALE BEHIND CHINESE PULLING OUT OF DHOFAR AND LEAVING GROUND TO SOVIETS? ONE COULD ARGUE THAT CHINESE WOULD INVOLVE THEMSELVES EVEN MORE ACTIVELY IN DHOFAR IN ORDER NOT LET SOVIETS HAVE FREE HAND EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT CAUSE CHINESE SOME HEADACHES WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SUCH AS IRAN. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS FROM ACTION ADDRESSEES ON THESE ASPECTS OF CHINESE STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THIS PART OF WORLD.
HELMS

NOTE BY OC/ T: POUCHED PEKING.

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